March 9, 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I get information and updates about the coronavirus and COVID-19?
Information is available from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-guidance-management-patients.html

Information about South Dakota’s response and updates about the coronavirus (COVID-19) is available from the South Dakota Department of Health at https://doh.sd.gov/news/Coronavirus.aspx

Does Medicaid cover testing for coronavirus (COVID-19)?
Yes. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is creating a new Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code for providers and laboratories to bill for the test. The new HCPCS code will be available for billing on April 1, 2020.

What code should providers use to bill testing for coronavirus (COVID-19)?
Providers should use the newly designated HCPCS code U0001 to bill for testing for coronavirus (COVID-19). South Dakota Medicaid will accept this code after April 1, 2020 for services provided on or after February 4, 2020.

What is the reimbursement rate for the test for coronavirus (COVID-19)?
South Dakota Medicaid will develop a rate for coronavirus (COVID-19) testing (HCPCS U0001) based on the established Medicare rate. Medicare has not yet developed a rate for U0001.

Will HCPCS U0001 be available retroactively for billing?
Yes, South Dakota Medicaid will follow Medicare’s policy and make the code retroactively effective on February 4, 2020. The code will not be available to be billed until after April 1, 2020.

Is a telemedicine visit covered?

Is a telemedicine visit covered if the patient participates from their home?
Yes, the distant site service is covered even when the patient participates from home. When the patient participates from home, there is no reimbursement for a facility fee.

Can recipients get extra medicine or supplies?
South Dakota Medicaid’s dispensing limits have not changed. Medicaid recipients should continue to get supplies on an as-needed basis and should not stockpile medications or supplies.

The Department of Social Services does not exclude, deny benefits to, or otherwise discriminate against any person on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs, activities, or services. For more information about this policy or to file a Discrimination Complaint you may contact: Discrimination Coordinator, Director of DSS Division of Legal Services, 700 Governor’s Drive, Pierre SD 57501, 605-773-3305.

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-800-305-9673 (TTY: 711).